



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

OVAL NAMING RIGHTS MAY BE THRUST INTO PUBLIC LIMELIGHT

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VYING FOR LEADER NDP CANDIDATES TAKE PART IN FIRST ROUND OF DEBATES {page 10}



'UNSTOPPABLE'

NATHAN MACKINNON
HAS NIGHT TO
REMEMBER {page 20}



HALIFAX

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Monday, December 5, 2011
www.metronews.ca



News worth sharing.



Ballers. Collide

► Halifax Rainmen forward Lawrence Wright collides with Moncton Miracles defender Joe Webb during yesterday's National Basketball League of Canada game at the Metro Centre. The Rainmen knocked off the Miracles 104-95. Story, page 20.

Stadium needs more time: Mayor

▶ HRM would contribute \$20M to project
▶ Council remains divided

Some members of council want more time to work out the kinks on the stadium proposal and others are ready to throw in the towel.

Halifax regional council will debate the final report on the stadium tomorrow. It suggests a 10,000- to 14,000-minimum permanent-seat stadium would cost \$54.8 to \$71.1 million and the best location would be Dartmouth Crossing off of Commodore Drive.

But HRM staff are recommending council ask the Canadian Soccer Association for more time — up to six months past the Dec. 31 deadline — before committing to a stadium and bid to be a host city for the 2015 Women's World Cup of soccer.

Mayor Peter Kelly said he doesn't know what, if any, extension they'll be able to get but it may help in establishing funding commitments from the other levels of

government who so far have been cold to the idea.

"Until we hear a flat no on all aspects we have to continue to do due diligence," he said.

Kelly said he spoke to several federal ministers while in Ottawa last week and while they showed verbal support for the project, there was no monetary commitment.

Coun. Steve Adams said the writing is on the wall and now is the time get out.

"What's another six months going to do? They're either in or they're not," he said of possible support from the federal and provincial governments.

Coun. Jim Smith said some councillors wouldn't vote for the stadium if it was free.

"We can do this without adding any increase to property taxes. Why stop the process now?"

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Could beer sponsoring debate go public?

- Council voted 12-11 in secret meeting to reject Molson sponsorship for oval
- After public outcry over privacy, council to look at overhauling system

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO FILE



► Skaters glide around the Canada Games Oval in this file photo from last January.



JENNIFER TAPLIN
@METRONEWS.CA

A once-secret debate over naming rights may be thrust into the public lime-light tomorrow.

Two weeks ago, councillors debated and rejected a \$400,000 bid from Molson Coors for naming rights to the Events Plaza portion of the oval on the Halifax Common.

Several councillors at the time wished to forward the debate onto the open public meeting, but Mayor Peter Kelly, upon legal advice,

turned them down.

Given the public outcry over in-camera meetings, Kelly then issued a press release last week about overhauling the process.

He said it would provide transparency and "open our windows as wide as possible to achieve that kind of ventilation."

Coun. Dawn Sloane will test this new resolve tomorrow by asking council to reconsider the vote over the Molson sponsorship.

Kelly said it's a good idea for the public to see where councillors stand on the controversial issue.

"This is the opportunity for council to bring forward their commentary for public consumption," Kelly said yesterday. "It must be and should be dealt with in the public forum."

Since it's no longer a strictly contractual matter and the information is in the public realm anyway, it's now appropriate for council to discuss this matter in a public meeting, he added.

It's one debate Coun. Sue Uteck is looking forward to.

"In this new era of ventilation, I can't wait to see how it works," she said.



► Peter Kelly

Meanwhile, the Save the Oval Association has asked its supporters to contact their councillors and voice support for the beer dollars.

Council to consider sewer-pipe link-up

JENNIFER TAPLIN
@METRONEWS.CA

Halifax regional council is being asked to consider an encroachment to allow the VIA Rail's sewer pipe to hook up to a public line.

While Harbour Solutions takes care of the public sewers, there are still private ones that are dumping sewage into Halifax Harbour.

It's up to individual property owners to come up with a fix.

HRM staff will be asking council tomorrow to approve of an encroachment agreement with VIA to run a pipe under Hollis Street.

It's a tricky situation, according to the staff report, because there is no public sewer on Hollis and the only sewer that is running downhill near that area is owned by the Halifax Port Authority.

"This leaves Via Rail with only one option: to pump their sewerage uphill to Barrington Street — where the closest public sewer to its building is located," writes the report.

The pipe would be maintained on the property of VIA, not in the jurisdiction of the Halifax Regional Water Commission.

VIA would have to pay the HRM a one-time licence fee of \$125 in addition to the annual encroachment fee of \$490.

1

news


The U.S. government's post-BP-spill analysis contains good news for the bluefin-tuna fishery in the Gulf of Mexico. Scan the code for the story.

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Gambling on Bowwater

► Opposition parties question investment into beleaguered paper mill
► NDP commits \$50 million to keep it open ► Bailout includes training



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The province is gambling on the recovery of the

pulp-and-paper sector by committing \$50 million to keep Bowwater Mersey in business, both opposition parties charge.

On Friday, Premier Darrell Dexter travelled to Liverpool to deliver the multimillion-dollar bailout package for the beleaguered Queens County mill.

The deal includes a \$25-million capital loan from the Nova Scotia Jobs Fund — the fund that replaced the Industrial Expansion Fund — for a long-fibre refining project, which aims to reduce power consumption at the mill.

The province will also buy 25,000 acres of land owned by the mill, which carries a total price of \$23.7 million.

In addition, the province will commit \$1.5 million to train what's left of the Bowwater workforce.

"The province has obviously given a large amount of money here, the workers have given, the municipality has given," said Liberal Leader Stephen McNeil yesterday. "What's unclear is what the company is giving."

McNeil said the government needs to ensure the

Opposition

► Both Jamie Baillie and Stephen McNeil said the government should turn their attention to other economic factors — the tax structure and power rates, as examples — to address what they perceive as a structural issue in attracting and retaining business in Nova Scotia.

money earmarked for the Liverpool mill stays at the Liverpool mill — not spread around to mill owner Resolute Forest Products' other operations.

"When we put in that kind of money, what is the assurance that the province has got that this company will be here in the long run?"

Progressive Conservative Leader Jamie Baillie called the bailout package an "expensive bet on the future of the paper industry."

"(It is) a place taxpayers normally wouldn't want to be, but I do understand how important it is to Queens County," said Baillie.

NDP defends bailout package

The NDP backbencher representing Queens says she's disappointed with opposition criticism of a bailout package for the Bowwater mill.

But Vicki Conrad said in a release yesterday she's not surprised the investment of \$50 million to keep the mill has drawn the opposition's ire.

"Two thousand families depend on that mill for their livelihood," said Conrad. "Jamie Baillie and Stephen McNeil don't care about families, they care about political potshots."

Premier Darrell Dexter made the announcement of the five-year deal in the Liverpool town hall, saying he believed the package of forgivable loans, a training grant and the purchase of woodlands from Resolute Forest Products will keep the mill going.



"I said a few weeks ago that it would not be acceptable to anyone in Nova Scotia to just hand over taxpayers' dollars to see the mill operate for another six or eight months," he said during a news conference.

"The solution to keep the mill operating ... had to ensure long-term sustainability of the mill. This agreement does that."

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Follow. The Fleet



► Canadian Forces members from the Fleet Diving Unit (Atlantic) run down Robie Street yesterday as part of the Christmas Daddies Navy Divers' Run. Unit members covered approximately 50 kilometres through parts of Sackville, Bedford, Dartmouth and Halifax.

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO

Our hearts belong to the Christmas Daddies

Police warn Sydney teens about 'sexting'

► 'The bigger thing is once the pictures are gone, no one knows where they're going to end up,' a police spokesman says of nude cellphone photos

Most of the teens who have been sending naked photos to each other did not realize they were making, accessing and distributing child pornography, police say.

More than 100 students in Sydney, some as young as 13, have been sending nude or partially nude photos on their cellphones, Staff Sgt. Michael Kennedy of Cape Breton Regional Police said this weekend.

"Most of them didn't realize that what they were doing is wrong," Kennedy

said, adding that a parent of a student learned of the situation a few weeks ago and notified the principal of a local high school.

A police investigation found that students had been participating in "sexting" and sending the photos using BlackBerry messenger.

Most of the images were of girls but some featured both girls and boys and more than one person.

"Police ... went around to all the homes of the students and notified some

very shocked parents about what was going on," Kennedy said.

A warning notice was also sent to the parents of at least one Sydney school.

Kennedy said police are not laying charges, but that does not mean the situation isn't being taken seriously.

"If somebody wants to send a picture to their boyfriend or girlfriend or whatever ... you're getting into child pornography, and it's serious."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The big picture

► Police say any image showing a person under the age of 18 exposing their breasts, genitals or anal region, or engaged in explicit sexual activity, is considered child pornography.

► Convictions for making, possessing, distributing or accessing child pornography can lead to minimum penalties of 45 days to one year.

Man jailed for piercing girlfriend's condoms

A Nova Scotia man convicted of sexual assault for poking holes in his girlfriend's condoms and having intercourse with her was given an 18-month prison sentence Friday in a case the Crown said was without precedent.

Craig Hutchinson, 41, attempted to hug his father but was pulled back by officers and taken into custody after he was sentenced in provincial Supreme Court in Halifax.

Judge Richard Coughlan said Hutchinson's pre-meditated actions in piercing the condoms and his breach of trust with the woman were aggravating

20 The number of years Craig Hutchinson's name will be on the federal sex-offender registry list.

factors in the case.

"Incarceration is the only suitable way to express society's condemnation of Mr. Hutchinson's conduct," Coughlan said.

Hutchinson's mother buried her face in her hands and sobbed loudly as the sentence was delivered.

The Clyde River man was convicted in September but found not guilty of aggravated sexual assault.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

PART-TIME WORK ON UPSWING

Jobless rate at standstill

A rise in the number of part-time jobs did little to change Nova Scotia's overall unemployment rate.

Statistics Canada reports that the province's labour force rose one per cent (5,100 people) in November over the previous month, and employment rose one per cent (4,400 jobs).

The growth in employment was driven by a spike in part-time jobs, while the number of full-time positions fell slightly. The unemploy-



► McNeil

ment rate remained unchanged at 8.6 per cent.

Opposition parties were quick to note Nova Scotia seems to be stuck in a tale of two economies — the capital city, and everywhere else. "The trend that we've been seeing is that, particularly in rural Nova Scotia, there is an increasing number of people without work," Liberal Leader Stephen McNeil said.

● METRO

Dump Bill 102: Baillie to NDP

Jamie Baillie, leader of the provincial Progressive Conservatives, is hoping to persuade at least some members of the NDP government to break party ranks and withdraw their support for a controversial proposed labour law.

Bill 102, also known as the first contract arbitration bill, would allow a third-party arbitrator to decide the terms of employment in a newly unionized workplace.

Baillie will speak today

at the Truro Chamber of Commerce where he will urge MLAs to reconsider the law.

"I recognize it's a long shot, but the next step for us is to try and convince them that the right thing to do is to shelve the bill and put the province's interests first and their party's interests second," Baillie said yesterday.

He added that the bill threatens job creation and warned MLAs in the South Shore, the Annapolis Valley and Pictou County to consider businesses in their areas that have already resisted the bill, such as Michelin and Sobeys.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Georgia Pacific suspends operations, lays off staff

Georgia Pacific is idling its gypsum operations in Nova Scotia and laying off most of its remaining workers.

Company spokesman Eric Abercrombie said 34

of 42 workers will be laid off within the next two weeks and eight will be kept on as a skeleton crew.

The company also laid off 27 workers over the past two months due to

poor market conditions.

Abercrombie said he is not certain whether the company will resume operations.

The company has gypsum quarries in Sugar

Camp and Melford, and a ship loading facility in Point Tupper.

Georgia Pacific has been mining gypsum in the province since 1962.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Shaking the status quo

► Singapore SlutWalk protests sexual violence against women

Hundreds of people gathered at a park in Singapore yesterday to protest sexual violence against women as part of the global SlutWalk movement, in a rare public demonstration in the tightly controlled city state.

The event featured live music, speeches and a women's Muay Thai martial-arts exhibition at downtown Singapore's Speakers' Corner, the only public outdoor space where demonstrations are allowed in the Southeast Asian country.

Participants at the rally did not dress provocatively as some activists have in SlutWalks in U.S. and Canadian cities.

"The idea was not to vamp it up, because women can get raped regardless of what they're wearing," said Vanessa Ho, who organized

the event with six friends. "We're trying to raise awareness against victim-blaming and slut-shaming."

SlutWalk marches have been held in cities around the world, including earlier this year in New Delhi and Sydney. The protests originated in Toronto, where they were sparked by a police officer's remark that women could avoid being raped by not dressing like "sluts."

"The world is dominated by males, so there's a male mentality," said Esaint Chiang, a 21-year-old student who attended yesterday's protest. "I think it's a good idea to bring awareness to these issues, but I like that they're not being so provocative, playing by the rules."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



► Jess Hutch, left, takes a picture of fellow volunteer Jillian Yue wearing SlutWalk underwear as people gather at Hong Lim Park as part of the global SlutWalk movement in Singapore yesterday.

BRYAN VAN DER BEEK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Date rape

- Corinna Lim, executive director of the Singapore women's-rights group Aware, said many sexual assault cases go unreported, especially date rape.
- Aware recently started a hotline for sexual abuse victims and offers to

accompany women to the police and the hospital after an assault.

- "The family of the victim will sometimes say, 'What were you wearing?'" Lim said. "Singapore women have modernized quite quickly in a short time, but Singapore is still a very conservative society."

KENTUCKY CHURCH

Interracial ban to be nullified

The pastor at a Kentucky church says he will nullify a vote taken by members of his congregation that bans interracial couples.

Stacy Stepp, who is pastor of the Gulnare Free Will Baptist Church in Pike County, told the Lexington Herald-Leader

on Saturday that he plans to declare the vote approving the policy null and void.

The move comes after Stepp, who says he opposed the policy, asked for advice from the Sandy Valley Conference of Free Will Baptists.

The conference met Saturday and issued a statement saying it had determined there weren't enough members voting in favour of the proposal, which would require a change in church bylaws.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Zambia dismisses call to arrest Bush

Zambia has dismissed an international rights group's call for the arrest on torture charges of former president George W. Bush, who has been touring Africa to raise awareness about cervical

and breast cancer.

"On what basis does Amnesty International want us to arrest President Bush?" state media quoted Foreign Affairs Minister Chishimba Kambwili as saying while Bush, his wife and daughters ended their visit to Zambia on Saturday.

Bush started his Africa tour in Tanzania.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Consular services in the red

Earthquakes, explosions and mudslides blew a hole in Foreign Affairs' budget for consular services to Canadians last year, creating the first deficit since the evacuation of Canadians from Lebanon five years ago.

The department posted a \$5.2-million deficit in 2010-2011 for the consular services provided by its diplomatic missions, including help for Canadians hit by an earthquake in Haiti and by an explosion at a

Mexican resort. The department is required to recoup the cost of consular services through a general levy on each passport issued to Canadians, currently \$25 for each adult.

But the levy revenue is not keeping up with costs, increasing pressure on the department to hike the fee — just as Passport Canada is proposing to significantly raise the basic cost of its new ePassports, which debut next year.

Foreign Affairs has

racked up consular-affairs deficits in three of the last six years, the largest in 2006-2007, when it was forced to absorb most of the cost of evacuating Canadians from Lebanon in the summer.

The consular account is currently running a \$30-million cumulative deficit, says an internal Foreign Affairs report.

The report notes it cost about \$94 million to provide consular services abroad in 2010-2011. THE CANADIAN PRESS

India. Violence



Muslims defy curfew in Kashmir

Authorities used batons, tear gas and water cannons to break up Muslim religious processions held yesterday in defiance of a strict curfew in the main Indian-controlled city of the disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir, police said. At least 70 people were detained after police imposed the curfew in some parts of Srinagar to prevent gatherings marking the Muslim month of Muharram from developing into anti-India protests, police said.

Anti-gay law may stall AIDS fight in Nigeria

A bill originally designed to

outlaw gay marriage in Nigeria likely has consequences far beyond its initial scope — criminalizing gay groups and organizations could jeopardize millions of dollars of West-

ern aid geared toward stopping the spread of HIV and AIDS. Nigeria likely cannot afford to scorn foreign aid in the fight against HIV-AIDS, experts say.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

Giant pandas land in U.K.

LONDON, ENGLAND. Two giant pandas from China landed yesterday in Scotland, where they will become the first to live in Britain in nearly two decades.

The eight-year-old pair, named Tian Tian and Yang Guang — or Sweetie and Sunshine —

touched down at Edinburgh Airport on a specially chartered Boeing 777 flight called the "Panda Express."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Indonesia wall collapse kills 11

MAKASSAR, INDONESIA. Police say 11 people were killed when a high concrete wall collapsed in a housing complex on central Indonesia's Sulawesi island.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gunmen attack Nigeria town, kill six

Gunmen from a radical Muslim sect raided a town in northern Nigeria early yesterday morning, bombing police stations and robbing banks in an attack that killed at least six people, authorities said.

The attack in Azare in Bauchi state mirrored other recent attacks by the sect known as Boko Haram. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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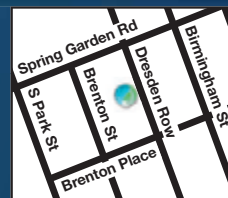


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Violent flyer diverts flight

- Unruly passenger uttered bomb threat on WestJet plane to Toronto
- Man has history of mental illness

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METRO CANADA IN VANCOUVER

A WestJet flight from Vancouver to Toronto was diverted to Thunder Bay, Ont., on Saturday when a passenger allegedly grew violent.

The man, a 27-year-old Portuguese citizen with a history of mental illness, was restrained by the crew. He allegedly uttered a bomb threat once the plane landed. An overnight search of the aircraft by Ontario and Thunder Bay police turned up nothing, and the plane completed its flight yesterday.

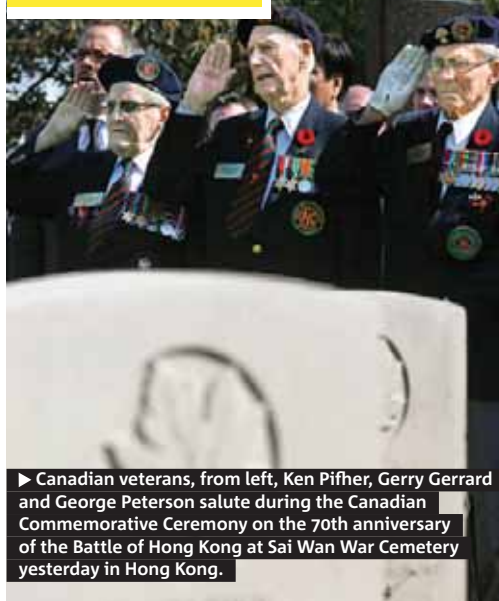
"It is extremely rare that

we have to divert for an unruly guest," explained WestJet media relations manager Robert Palmer.

"Normally speaking, if the individual that was behaving inappropriately calms down ... we'll resume the flight and call the police to meet us at the destination. Only in extreme situations like this do we divert, which shows you what kind of concern was expressed by the crew."

The man was taken into custody by the Thunder Bay Police Service and brought to the Thunder Bay Regional Health Centre for a medical assessment. No charges have been laid.

Hong Kong. Ceremony



► Canadian veterans, from left, Ken Pifher, Gerry Gerrard and George Peterson salute during the Canadian Commemorative Ceremony on the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Hong Kong at Sai Wan War Cemetery yesterday in Hong Kong.

KIN CHEUNG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Honouring our heroes

The ceremony honoured the 1,975 Canadian soldiers who fought to defend Hong Kong during the Second World War and remembered over 550 Canadian soldiers who died in the battle.

Two Mounties shot during standoff

HEATHER MCINTYRE
IN EDMONTON

Two RCMP officers were shot early yesterday during a standoff southwest of Edmonton.

Both were transported to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries following an exchange of gunfire at 3:30 a.m. at a rural residence 18 kilometres west of the Village of Breton.

"They're non-life-threatening injuries," said RCMP Sgt. Tim Taniguchi. "One is

superficial and the other is more serious."

The officers, from Red Deer and members of the RCMP emergency response team, were called at 5:20 p.m. Saturday following a complaint that a 35-year-old man had been shot outside the home.

That man was transported to hospital.

The standoff came to an end just before 11 a.m. yesterday when both a man and a woman from inside were taken into custody.

Bus strikes and kills Montreal girl

A five-year-old girl was struck and killed by a city bus in Montreal, police said yesterday.

The bus was headed to-

ward a reserved parking area at a busy subway terminus in the city's east end Saturday evening and hit the girl as she was crossing the street.

The child was rushed to hospital, where she died soon after, said Montreal police Const. Daniel Lacoursiere. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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Putin party committed violations: Opposition

► Protests held in Moscow and St. Petersburg ► More than 170 arrests

Prime Minister Vladimir Putin's party struggled to hang on to its majority in Russia's parliamentary election, suggesting Russians were wearying of the man who has dominated Russian politics for more than a decade.

Rival parties and election monitors said even a result of around 50 per cent was inflated, alleging ballot-stuffing and other significant violations at the polls. Many feared the vote count would be manipulated.

Putin wanted to see his United Russia party do well in yesterday's election as a sign of popular support for his return to the presidency in a vote now three months away. Despite the sobering setback, he was still expected to have little trouble reclaiming the position he held from 2000 to 2008.

Putin has systematically destroyed any potential challengers and most Russians do not see any credible alternatives, despite growing dissatisfaction with his strongman style. Grumbling over pervasive official corruption and the gap between ordinary people and the superrich has become widespread.

Putting a positive spin on the disappointing returns, Putin said "we can ensure the stable development of the country with this result." United Russia held a two-thirds majority in the outgoing State Duma, which allowed it to change the constitution unchanged. But the party is increasingly disliked, seen as representing a corrupt bureaucracy and known as the "party of crooks and thieves." **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



► Russian police officers detain an opposition activist during a protest against vote rigging in St. Petersburg, Russia, yesterday. Russians cast their ballots with muted enthusiasm in parliamentary elections, a vote opinion polls suggest could reduce the strength of Prime Minister Vladimir Putin's party.

Early results

- Results with 75 per cent of precincts showed about 50 per cent for United Russia.
- This was in line with an exit poll conducted by the VTsIOM polling agency tallying United Russia at 48.5 per cent and another done by the FOM polling agency at 46 per cent.
- About 60 per cent of Russia's 110 million registered voters cast ballots, down from 64 per cent four years ago.
- Only seven parties were allowed to field candidates for Parliament this year, while the most vocal opposition groups were barred.
- Golos, an independent election-monitoring group, compiled some 5,300 complaints of violations, a third of which said they were pressured to vote for United Russia.
- Final results expected at 1 a.m. EDT today.

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► NDP leadership candidates, from left, Nathan Cullen, Romeo Saganash and Robert Chisholm take part in the first round of debates in Ottawa yesterday.

No surprises in NDP leadership debate

► 500 New Democrats attended first debate ► Five more to come in the new year

For anyone hoping to separate the wheat from the chaff in the NDP leadership contest, yesterday's first all-candidates debate provided little grist for the mill.

With nine candidates vying to make their mark during the two-hour debate, no

one had a real opportunity to shine — or fall flat.

The affair was largely collegial, with candidates sticking closely to tried-and-true social democratic bromides for the ailing economy and rarely disagreeing.

The only sparks came during a brief exchange between Brian Topp, the former party president, backroom strategist and confidante of the late Jack Layton, and Paul Dewar. That Topp chose to challenge Dewar over how he

would pay for his spending promises had New Democrats buzzing that the presumptive frontrunner must feel threatened by the Ottawa MP.

The leadership vote will take place March 24. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



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Turkey. Ritual



► People walk through Honest Ed's in Toronto to get a free turkey yesterday. The late Ed Mirvish began the turkey giveaway in 1987, and today his son David Mirvish, foreground, was on hand to give away the birds.

KEITH BEATY/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Ed's turkey giving endures

About 1,500 people lined up in order to get a free turkey at the 24th annual Honest Ed's turkey giveaway. The store had 12,000 pounds of turkey, so almost everyone who lined up left with a bird ... and a fruitcake. The lineup began on Friday.

Occupy Winnipeg camp heats up

The Occupy Winnipeg camp saw another suspicious fire on the weekend, the third one reported in less than two weeks.

Firefighters responded to a 911 call that came in at 3:40 a.m. Saturday and extinguished a fire set on the ground under a white festival tent. Nobody was injured in the fire, which ignited a square section of carpeting in the middle of the tent.

Winnipeg Police Service Const. Rob Carver said only grass was damaged and no accelerants were used. Police questioned an individual walking in the area, but his alibi checked out.

Occupier Rob Gaumond said it's not clear if the fire

Repeated fires

Occupy Winnipeg had two previous fire incidents.

- The first fire, set under the same white tent, was put out by a local resident. An occupier said it appeared to be a deliberate attempt to burn the tent down. Police could not confirm this.
- The second fire, two days later used an accelerant and destroyed a brand-new all-season tent.

was another arson attempt or a homeless person trying to keep warm. He said four empty tents were also vandalized around the time of the Saturday's fire. **● METRO**

Electric car-sharing hits streets of Paris

Paris, in its latest bid to be an innovator of the City of Tomorrow, is launching an electric car-sharing program to cut air and noise pollution.

Autolib', a project built on the success of the city's bike-rental scheme, makes its debut today and officials want the self-service e-cars to be as much a part of Paris life as the Eiffel Tower or Notre Dame Cathedral.

While many world cities have been developing greener alternatives to carbon-emitting vehicles, Paris says its program is the biggest of its kind: 250 vehicles hit the road on Monday, 2,000 are expected by next summer and 3,000 are planned within the next two years.

The four-seat compact Bluecar is a collaboration of Italian car designer Pininfarina and French con-



► An Autolib' parking station in Paris.

glomerate Groupe Bolloré, which hopes to showcase its lithium metal polymer battery that powers the car.

To get going, users swipe a magnetized card against a driver's-side window to open the door, and a key tethered to the steering column starts the car.

"The city's first interest is fighting air pollution.

These cars not only don't emit carbon dioxide, but localized exhaust fumes either," said Sylvain Marty, who heads the Autolib' partnership led by Paris and private-sector affiliates. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Market moment

TSX



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(12,104.08)

Dollar



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| China.....1.9¢/min | Lebanon.....7.9¢/min | Trinidad.....4.9¢/min |
| Colombia.....from 3.9¢/min | Mexico.....from 1.9¢/min | U.A.E.....14.9¢/min |
| Cuba.....89.9¢/min | Pakistan.....5.9¢/min | Ukraine.....7.9¢/min |
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LAW'S FUTURE IS FULL OF LABOUR PAINS

URBAN COMPASS

STEPHEN KIMBER
METRO HALIFAX



Eric Durnford says if working conditions in Nova Scotia now were the same as in 1984, he too would support first-contract arbitration.

Durnford, a prominent labour lawyer who represents employers, was responding last week to a union presentation on why we need the law.

Back in 1984, a CUPE official reminded the law amendments committee that workers at Keddys Nursing Manor in Halifax joined a union. Their employer refused to negotiate, suspending one union executive and forcing another worker to clean a floor with a toothbrush. It took the employees four years and an 18-month strike to win their first contract.

That was then. Now, Durnford says, Nova Scotia is a labour-relations Utopia. We don't need legislation.

Strangely, I can't find any evidence of that. Durnford — who was already an influential labour lawyer in 1984 — spoke up for first-contract arbitration back when he says it might have been worth supporting.

Or perhaps not so strange. Self-interested supporters of the status quo inevitably claim that now — whenever now is — is the best-of-couldn't-be-better times. And predict the sky's collapse if it's changed.

Last week, Corporate Chicken Littles Sobeys and Michelin — two of our

biggest employers and, perhaps not coincidentally, two of our most successful government teat-suckers — lined up at law amendments to paint the sky gone.

Unions, they suggested, would take advantage of the law to bamboozle their unsuspecting — and, otherwise, of course, happy-happy — workers into signing union cards.

Reality check No. 1: Statistics show union membership is declining across the country, including in provinces with first-contract legislation.

In British Columbia, which has had first-contract arbitration since 1993, only 10 per cent of initial contracts go to arbitration, and fully one-third of those applications come from employers. Oops.

And such legislation, our concerned-only-for-what's-best-for-the-province corporate spokes-folks also warned, will scare off potential investors.

Reality check No. 2: In 2007, Sobeys shelled out \$260 million to buy a supermarket chain in ... uh, investment-slaughtering British Columbia. Sobeys also currently operates 16 stores in Manitoba, all acquired long after that province's supposedly draconian first-contract legislation came into effect.

Welcome to 2011. Shades of Orwell's 1984.

Company's idea simply coated with goodwill

NEWS WORTH SHARING

Media will always have to report on the tough stuff. But we know that Canada is full of compassionate individuals, inspiring projects and stories worth celebrating. Here's just one.

For five years running, a collaboration between West 49 and Big Brothers Big Sisters has been offering a solution for the city's families who struggle to outfit their children with coats for winter.

Through a collection of outgrown winter jackets at the retailer's Mic Mac Mall and Halifax Shopping Centre locations, the more than 400 Greater Halifax

kids involved in Big Brothers Big Sisters have access to about 15,000 gently-used winter coats.

As thanks, donors can save \$25 off the cost of any in-store winter jacket.

"It's often a struggle for families to outfit kids with the appropriate gear for winter, so this program eases that challenge," says Shelda Cochrane of Big Brothers Big Sisters. "If you

are in the market for a new coat, help a child in our community be warm this winter — it's a definite win-win."

● CRAIG AND MARC KIELBURGER

Help the good news get around. Send your stories of local heroes and positive action to goodnews@metowe.com and we will share them right here.

Daily Zoom

All the Queen's bikers



Group of bikers ... from the army

LONDON. For Queen and country ... and motorbike junkies. The display team of the British army's Royal Signals White Helmets strike a practice pose ahead of the military tournament at Earls Court. Some 700 servicemen and women perform stunts that feature skills they use in the field.

● MWN

Defying death? It's an honour, sir

ATTRIBUTES. According to their website, the team of 30 volunteer soldiers demonstrate "all the personal qualities demanded of the modern Royal Signals soldier." What that entails is performing death-defying acrobatics and riding within millimetres of each other at speeds of up to 130 km/h.

● MWN



White Helmets

Equipment. British Millennium Triumph 750cc motorcycle, producing 46bhp and weighing just under 200kg.

Bit of a showoff. "I can ride that better backwards than forwards," Cpl. Jason (Gyppo) Hooper wrote on an online forum.

Eye on the detectives

► Grab your deerstalker cap — Sherlock Holmes is back this month ► Robert Downey Jr. reprises his role as everyone's favourite gumshoe in the Game of Shadows ► To mark the release, we pit film and television's criminal investigators against each other in a sleuth-off



Scooby-Doo

The heart and soul of the Mystery Inc. gang may get the heebie-jeebies at the outset of every adventure, but give him some crunchy courage in the form of Scooby Snacks and he becomes doggone heroic.

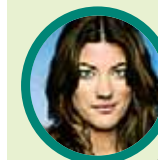


Batman

Psychopathic baddies like Joker and Riddler love to taunt the caped crusader with twisted puzzles. In order to clean up the streets of Gotham City, Batman has to do equal parts of mental heavy lifting and Sok-Kapowing.

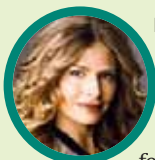
Winner: Batman

In the battle of slapstick versus beat-with-a-stick detective work, the Dark Knight leaves the Great Dane crying "rrr-uncle."



Lt. Debra Morgan (Dexter)

Dexter's sis may not piece together crimes as quickly as her blood-spatter expert/serial killing bro, but she's still got the sharpest tongue and coolest head on Miami Metro's homicide division.



Deputy Chief Brenda Leigh Johnson (The Closer)

Major Crimes' cunning interrogator disarms suspects with her trademark genial "thank you, thank you so much" Southern charm before going in for the kill.

Winner: Brenda Leigh Johnson

While they're both highly capable workaholics, Morgan's solve rate suffers because her brother hampers investigations to satisfy his dark passenger.



Lt. Columbo

Outwardly naive and absentminded, the sly detective, in his rumpled trench coat and battered Peugeot, gave suspects a false sense of security before tripping them up with a few final questions. "And oh, just one more thing..."

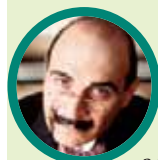


Adrian Monk

Despite being socially awkward, hamstrung by a severe case of OCD, and afflicted with a host of phobias including germs, milk and dentists, when it comes to solving crimes he is a genius.

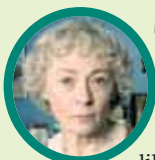
Winner: Adrian Monk

When the defective detective is on the trail, it never grows cold. And it doesn't hurt that he has a blonde sidekick to carry his disinfectant hand-wipes.



Hercule Poirot

One of the least physically active detectives, this Belgian sleuth prefers to work from the comforts of his easy chair. Using his "little grey cells", he solves epic mysteries while maintaining a meticulously groomed moustache.



Miss Marple

This prim octogenarian spinster seems more inclined to knit a pair of mittens than solve a grisly murder. Don't let her little old lady looks fool you. Miss Marple is a straight up O.G. with a mind like a bacon slicer.

Winner: Hercule Poirot

The sheer international import of Poirot, who put Belgium on the map decades before the Muscles from Brussels, puts him firmly in the catbird seat.



Inspector Jacques Clouseau

He has no discernable powers of deduction and possesses an uncanny knack for ignoring the obvious. But in the end, the pride of the French Sûreté still manages to bring the bad guys to justice, albeit accidentally.



Inspector Gadget

Though he can do almost anything thanks to an arsenal of cybernetic attachments, Gadget is clueless. But thanks to his whip-smart niece Penny and her dog Brain, Gadget bats one thousand when it comes to foiling Dr. Claw.

Winner: Inspector Gadget

While both are bumbling nitwits, Gadget's entourage reduces Clouseau to French toast. This article will now self destruct.

● MIKE DOJC

2

scene

Scene in brief



The latest Twilight movie still cast the longest shadow with \$16.9 million for a third-straight No. 1 finish during one of the year's slowest weekends at the box office. Coming in second again was Disney's The Muppets, with \$11.2 million. With no new wide releases opening after the busy Thanksgiving weekend, ticket sales nosedived.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Utah home inspired by movie Up sold for \$400,000 to Disney fanatics

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Brit turns 30

Britney Spears celebrated her 30th birthday last Friday by strapping on skates and going ice skating with boyfriend Jason Trawick, according to Us Weekly.

The singer took a break from the current South American leg of her tour with a quick trip to a rink in Houston, Texas.

The couple — who are rumoured to be talking about

getting engaged — were all smiles on the ice.

● METRO



Britney Spears

Brooke Mueller is busted...again

► Charlie Sheen's ex arrested on drug and assault charges: People magazine
► Mueller has custody of their 2 kids ► Second arrest for cocaine possession

ASPEN POLICE DEPARTMENT VIA GETTY IMAGES

THE WORD

DOROTHY ROBINSON
SCENE@METRONews.ca

It was a slow weekend for celebrities behaving badly, but luckily for gossip columnists everywhere, Brooke Mueller still can't get her act together. That lady parties more than most Hollywood celebs combined.

The latest indiscretions of Charlie Sheen's ex? After a wild Friday night, she was arrested in Aspen on assault and drug charges, ac-

cording to People magazine. (Why always Aspen? Doesn't she ever go skiing out there?) The mother of two and frequent rehab resident was picked up at the nightclub Escobar after another female patron complained to police about an altercation.

"Mueller was arrested and charged with assault in the third degree and possession of cocaine with intent to distribute," an Aspen police official says. "Mueller posted bond of \$11,000 and was released with a district court date of Dec. 19, 2011."

This was Mueller's second arrest for cocaine pos-



► Brooke Mueller's mug shot taken Saturday in Aspen, Colorado.

session. In July, she finished a 30-day rehab session. Although this seems like not-so-huge news, be prepared for a Sheen media onslaught this week, as

Mueller has custody of their two children. And just when you thought you'd get through the year without hearing from him again.

Cooper isn't buying it

Bradley Cooper doesn't necessarily enjoy being the Sexiest Man Alive, a title recently bestowed upon him by People magazine.

"It's been a weird couple of weeks. I did originally laugh and then I just started

crying," Cooper tells British website OMG.

"I guess it's a bit of a joke. I hope that it won't change things." In fact, while other actors might see the title as an achievement, Cooper is worried it

might become something of an impediment to his acting career. "I'm glad it doesn't detract from my work, I hope it doesn't," he says. "It would be unfortunate if it did because I'm not really that guy at all." ● METRO



► Bradley Cooper

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How to explain Santa

► Even parents who loathe the commercial aspect of the holiday season can't get away from Santa Claus ► What are the implications of lying to children about the myth that is Father Christmas? ► And when are children ready to hear the truth about St. Nick?

EMMA E. FORREST
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LONDON

Imagine you're three years old and a fat bearded man in a red suit starts laughing in your face. You'd be confused. Scared. And you'd probably run to Mommy.

So when and how do you tell your child about who, exactly, this man is?

They should be ready to understand the background story of Father Christmas at about age three, says Dr. Jerome Singer, professor emeritus of psychology and child study at Yale University, and a specialist in children's imagination.

"Before that it's confusing to the child. At three, four and five years, children are doing a great deal of pretending and make believe anyway."

Either way, you can't escape the myth.

"If your children go to school and are part of mainstream society, then



"At three, four and five years, children are doing a great deal of pretending anyway."

JEROME SINGER, PSYCHOLOGIST

it's hard to see how you can avoid it," says Oliver James, a clinical psychologist and author.

"At age two, three and four, children are living a wild fantasy life already. The idea that there is a big man flying around the world giving gifts shouldn't be a hard sell," he says.

Parents shouldn't worry about participating in the great red-and-white lie.

"Lying is an integral part of life from an early age; children witness parents saying (to unwelcome callers) 'tell him I'm not in'" says James. "So there's nothing too complicated about that."

In fact, fantasizing about Santa's adventures could benefit a child's cognitive development.

"There are many advantages for the child developing relatively early a capacity for pretending and imagination," says Singer.

Children with active imaginations at an early age learn new vocabularies, master the idea of possibilities by experimenting with different social situations, trying them out and seeing what works and what doesn't, so they learn to self-regulate, Singer explains.

Communicate with your kids about the Santa myth, says Singer, and be alert to factors that will confuse them, including different Santas appearing



► Who is this Santa Claus guy anyway?

in shops and on TV.

Most kids find out the truth from siblings or at school. Don't push kids

who want to believe but prepare them for the truth as they hit early school age.

Analysis

GIVE CHRISTMAS MEANING



Oliver James, author of *Affluenza*, a book about how our competitive

consumerist culture makes us anxious, suggests ways to give Christmas a non-commercial meaning.

Create games and traditions

Find a film that the family can watch together (*The Sound of Music*, *Casablanca*), and watch it every year, creating rituals away from the consumption of gifts.

Reinforce anti-materialism

Remind your kids that money and possessions aren't going to make them happy throughout the year, and that richer people aren't necessarily happier.

Make them ad-savvy

Kids love impressing you with their cleverness. Teach them how to decrypt the ads that try to sell them products they don't need throughout the year.

3
life

Festive joy



"What would you like for Christmas?" This question seems easy enough. But as the options multiply the answer becomes more and more complicated... and expensive! Make time for the pleasures of family this Christmas: skating on an outdoor rink, baking cookies or having a movie marathon. This creates traditions kids will remember.

NEWS CANADA



Measles outbreaks on the rise across Europe, increasing cases also spreading to U.S. Scan code for story.



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\$30 (1891)

Healthy pasta, huge taste

► Heart friendly and palate pleasing — put shrimp pasta on the menu

PHOTO/NEWS CANADA

Ingredients:

- 1 package whole grain spaghetti
- 1 head radicchio, quartered and shaved in thin slices
- 1 cup shrimp
- 1 garlic clove, thinly sliced
- 2 tsp extra virgin olive oil

For the marinade:

- 1 tsp parsley, chopped
- 1 tsp rosemary, chopped
- 1 clove garlic, chopped
- 200 grams shrimp, small peeled and cleaned
- 2 tsp extra virgin olive oil
- ¼ tsp red pepper, crushed

Looking for a dish that is simple and impressive? Celebrity chef Scott Conant of Scarpetta restaurant has created a delicious dish that is sure to satisfy



► Dinner gets a healthy boost with whole-grain pasta, and shrimp.

your pasta craving.

Preparation:

- 1 Marinate shrimp with parsley, rosemary, extra virgin olive oil, garlic and crushed red pepper.
- 2 Heat olive oil in a sauté pan. Sauté the sliced

garlic until just before it turns brown. Add the shredded radicchio and sauté for 7-10 minutes.

- 3 Cook pasta until it's almost al dente. Drain. Reserve some cooking liquid (¼ cup) and set aside.

- 4 Add pasta cooking water (approximately ¼ cup) to sauté pan and cook for a minute or so. Then, add the pasta that is 90 per cent cooked. Add the marinated shrimp and cook thoroughly.

NEWS CANADA

Rose Reisman's Swap It

Double double coffee will add unnecessary weight and increase your risk of Type 2 diabetes and heart disease. Watch liquid calories.



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Is apple juice a threat to your child's health?



► Some say the real danger of apple juice is the calories.

It's true — apple juice can pose a risk to your health. But not necessarily from the trace amounts of arsenic that people are arguing about.

Despite the U.S. government's consideration of new limits on arsenic, nutrition experts say apple juice's real danger is to waistlines and children's teeth. Apple juice has few natural nutrients, lots of calories and, in some cases, has even more sugar than soda.

"It's like sugar water," said Judith Stern, a nutrition professor at the University of California, who has also consulted for Weight Watchers. "I won't let my three-year-old grandson drink apple juice."

Kids under 12 consume 28 per cent of all juice and juice drinks. Nationwide, apple juice is second only to orange juice in popularity.

Americans slurp almost 267 ounces of apple juice on average each year, according to the Food Insti-

tute's Almanac of Juice Products and the Juice Products Association.

TVs Dr. Mehmet Oz raised alarm over arsenic in apple juice, based on tests his show commissioned by a private lab. The Food and Drug Administration said its own tests disagreed.

However, after Consumer Reports did its own tests on several juice brands, the FDA said it will examine whether its restrictions on the amount of arsenic allowed in apple

juice are stringent enough.

Some forms of arsenic, such as the type found in pesticides, can be toxic and may pose a cancer risk if consumed at high levels or over a long period.

All juice sold in the U.S. must meet U.S. standards, and a lot of the information that people need about fruit juices is on the label.

So what's on those labels?

Carbohydrates, mostly sugars. Juice has a small amount of protein and min-

erals and lacks the fibre in whole fruit.

Drinking juice delivers a lot of calories quickly so you don't realize how much you've consumed, whereas you would have to eat a lot of apples to get the same amount.

"Whole fruits are much better for you," said Dr. Frank Greer, a University of Wisconsin, Madison, professor and former head of the pediatrics academy's nutrition committee.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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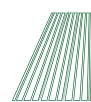
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PUTTING DIRTY OPTIONS THROUGH A WASH

Is it better to hand wash dishes or use my dishwasher? *Mike of Don Mills, Ont.*

QUEEN OF GREEN

LINDSAY COULTER
GREEN@METRONews.CA



Let me ask you this; can you wash and rinse a dirty plate with a cup of water?

Researchers at the University of Bonn in Germany

found that, compared to hand washing, dishwashers use only half the energy, one-sixth of the water, and less soap.

The most careful of hand-washers just could not beat the dishwashers we are blessed with today.

The study also rated the level of cleanliness.

Once again, the dishwasher won.

Energy Star claims that using an efficient dish-

washer instead of an older one will cut your utility bills by more than \$40 a year.

An Energy Star-qualified dishwasher can save you more than 230 hours of time over the course of a year (almost 10 days).

Although, if you find washing dishes therapeutic, who am I to argue with the value of quality me time?

And as usual, there are

It's pretty tough to do a better job by hand than using an energy-efficient dishwasher.

qualifiers.

Run your machine full, on the light cycle and turn off the heated drying option.

And for the love of Pete, choose an eco-friendly dishwasher and/or dishwashing

soap.

If a product doesn't list ingredients, leave it on the shelf.

Look for products with eco-labels like Green Seal or Environmental Choice's EcoLogo.

The bottom-line: It's pretty tough to do a better job by hand than using an energy-efficient dishwasher.

But then there are the big pots (space hogs),

knives (that get dull from clanking against dishes), and plastic containers (that release harmful chemicals when washed).

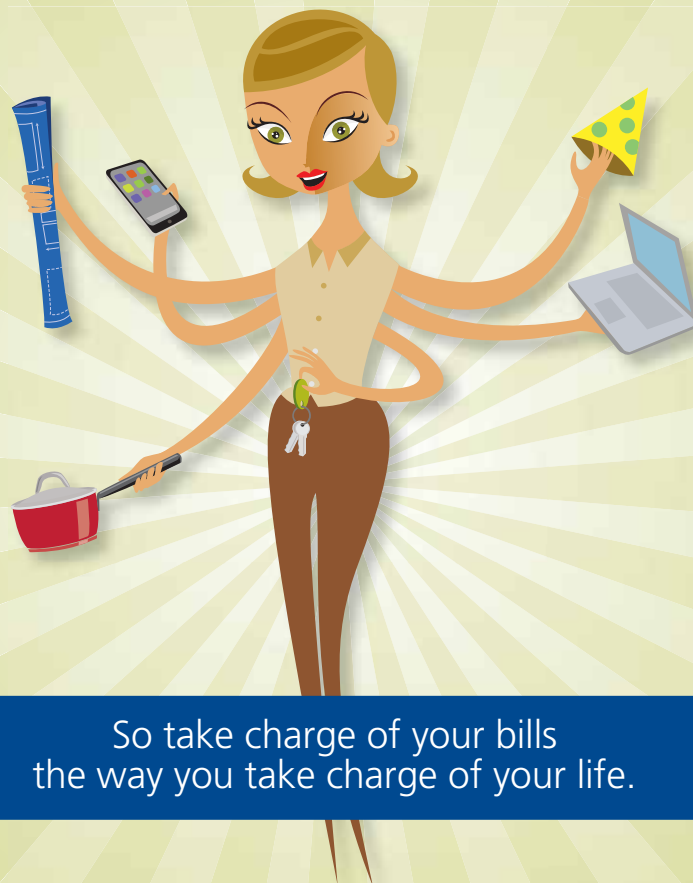
These should be hand-washed.

You can do a more efficient job by scraping food into the compost instead of wasting water rinsing.



David
Suzuki
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No strawman's argument

► A wild new concept seeks to turn the publishing world on its head ► And it's got the attention of Margaret Atwood



BEN KNIGHT
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

Paper mills ... on the prairies?

A stunning new development in paper production could make exactly that idea into a lucrative new industry.

Canopy, a Canadian environmental not-for-profit organization, is championing Second Harvest paper — made out of discarded straw left over from the grain harvest.

"This is an entirely new green resource sector for Canada, just waiting to be developed," says Nicole Rycroft, Canopy's founder and executive director. "It's got green jobs, value-added revenues to farmers, and really strong



ISTOCK PHOTOS

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Top 5: December 2nd

- 5 Katy Perry - The One That Got Away
- 4 Britney Spears - Criminal
- 3 Adele - Someone Like You
- 2 Rihanna - We Found Love
- 1 LMFAO - Sexy & I Know It

Weeknights at 9pm
Tessa counts down the **HOTTEST 5** songs that day!

1013THEBOUNCE.COM

market support."

If new paper plants are built, and the potential is fully realized, she predicts hundreds of millions of trees could be saved in the future.

"We have documented at least enough market demand to keep four mainstream paper mills running around the clock, with paper sales that would amount to in excess of \$900-million."

The idea got a high-profile boost recently, when prominent Canadian author Margaret Atwood announced that a special, autographed edition of her new book — *In Other Worlds: SF and the Human Imagination* — will be printed on Second Harvest paper.

"The Atwood book proves that paper made from straw is not green with pink spots, and it doesn't feel like rubbing your hand on sandpaper," Rycroft notes.

"It performs just like any other paper. When they ran it at the printers, there were no breakages. And it has half the ecological footprint."

The raw material — straw — is limitless, and most just gets thrown away. The biggest obstacle this faces is the reality of the infrastructure.

Savings.

Recycled savings:

- **By the numbers** Each ton of recycled paper can save 17 trees, 380 gallons of oil, three cubic yards of landfill space, 4,000 kilowatts of energy and 7,000 gallons of water.

The specialized pulping mills and paper plants don't yet exist.

"This is an incredible opportunity for Canada to develop a new green resource industry," she says.

"We can make excellent quality paper. We have an incredible sustainable economic opportunity for Canada to be a leader here. It's within our grasp, but we need to put the commercial-scale production facilities in place."

That will require a huge amount of capital investment. But the payoffs could be significant — both financially and ecologically.

"Sometimes, solutions aren't really complex. We have straw in abundance in Canada. It's right here. We can do it within the next 12 months if we really put our minds to it."

For more info, check out canopyplanet.org.

Her business is doing just grape

► A toast to former model Caroline Granger, who traded in glamour and photoshoots for grape vines and family

TURNING POINT

TERESA KRUIZE
LIFE@METRONews.ca



"I've gone from walking on alligators to dancing on them!" Caroline tells me from her office at The Grange, the award-winning winery she has grown and nurtured for the past 10 years.

It's been quite the journey for Caroline Granger, who found incredible success as a Ford model in Paris at the age of 16. Love and children brought her back to North America and

ultimately to the family farm in Prince Edward County in Ontario where she's been raising her three children.

In 1999 she planted some grape vines for a friend and it got her thinking about the wine busi-



► Granger in her modeling days.

ness.

With the support of her family she went back to school and planted 10 acres. The learning curve

was steep but success soon followed.

"I have this huge excitement that we're on the edge of something new and

dancing on alligators is how I view the future. I am thrilled to be a woman in agriculture and I'm passionate about making wine.

This business is very hard but I know this is absolutely where I'm supposed to be and I'm doing what I'm supposed to be doing."

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► Caroline Granger

Role model

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- Do your homework and risk assessment.
- Have an unshakable belief in yourself and your dream
- Inspire people and make a difference

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MacKinnon 'unstoppable' vs. Remparts

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO FILE



▶ Nathan MacKinnon

Dominique Ducharme says he's never had a player dominate like Nathan MacKinnon did on Saturday night against the Quebec Remparts.

"Once he scored the first one, he became unstoppable," the Halifax Mooseheads coach said of MacKinnon's epic five-goal effort in the Herd's 6-4 come-from-behind-win against the nationally-ranked Remparts before almost 6,500 fans at the Metro Centre. "That was a great performance that only great players can have."

Moose fans and players were still buzzing about the spectacular performance yesterday, and why not?

The 16-year-old rookie not only tied a team record for most goals in one game by a Mooseheads player (the other was Jason King), but he reeled off the last

four goals, including three in the third, as Halifax rallied from a 4-2 deficit.

Some might say MacKinnon was out to prove Hockey Canada wrong for

By the numbers

Key Nathan MacKinnon statistics this season.

- ▶ Goals: 19
- ▶ Assists: 30
- ▶ Points: 49
- ▶ Overall QMJHL scoring rank: 6th

not selecting him for the world junior tryout camp earlier last week. Ducharme feels it was more MacKinnon looking to rebound from a so-so effort against the Gatineau Olympiques on Friday and the challenge of facing the Remparts and their highly touted 17-year-old Mikhail Grigorenko.

"I think he enjoys the challenge of playing against a good team," he said. "You could see every time he was battling with Grigorenko, you can see that he wants to be better than him, right now."

"I thought the challenge of Quebec, Grigorenko and bouncing back ... he felt he could do more. I think it's where it came from."

Not to be lost in MacKinnon's performance was yet another victory by Halifax, who also beat the Olympiques on Friday at home, 5-3.

Halifax is now 19-7-1-2, including 4-0-1 in their last five games, and are tied for fifth overall in the league.

● PHILIP CROUCHER

No panic from Rainmen yet

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO

▶ Former NBAer Eddie Robinson makes home debut ▶ Finishes with seven points and five rebounds



PHILIP CROUCHER
@METRONEWS.CA

The Halifax Rainmen players aren't worried, and apparently, neither should their fans.

Through eight games, Halifax is a mediocre 4-4 and sits in the middle of the pack in the seven-team National Basketball League of Canada.

But coming off a 104-95 victory against the winless Moncton Miracles yesterday afternoon at the Metro Centre, the Rainmen hope to kick-start a winning run and eventually move to where they feel they belong — amongst the league elite.

"Hopefully we can just build from here ... we haven't really showed our potential yet," said Rainmen guard Taliek Brown, who had 12 points after missing one game with a sprained pinkie finger.

"I think at the end, we'll be at the top with everybody else. I don't think (fans) should worry. It's early in the season."

Don't be fooled by yesterday's score. Halifax was in tough against a game Miracles squad coached by



"Great things are coming down the line. We have to ride this wave ... get our surf boards and hit these waves hard."

HALIFAX RAINMEN FORWARD
ERIC CROOKSHANK

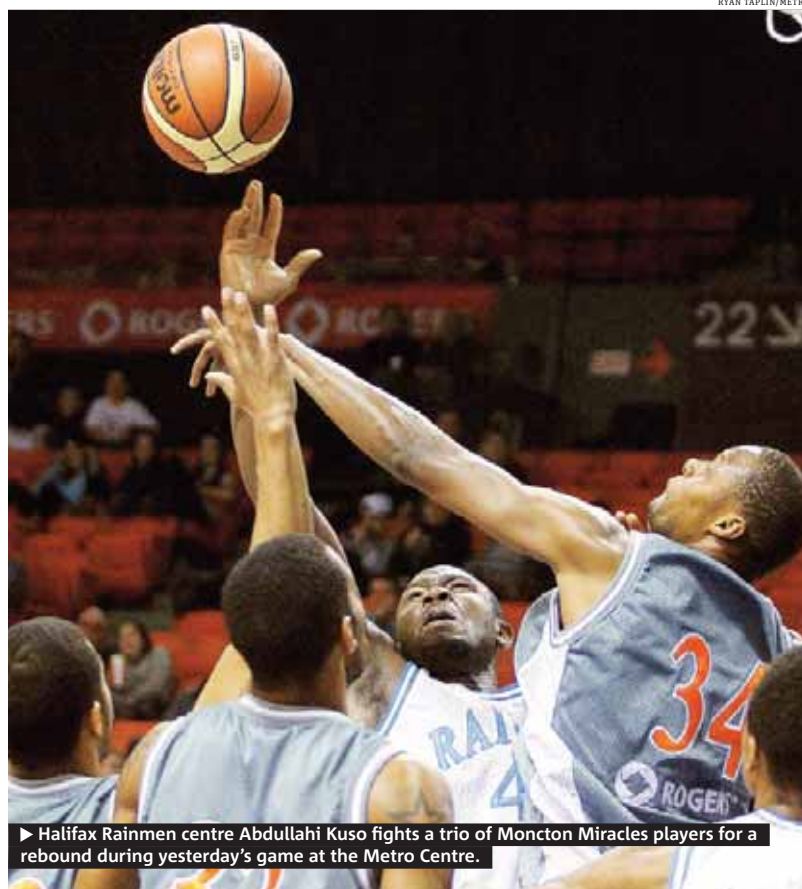
3,256 Attendance for the Rainmen game yesterday at Metro Centre.

former Rainmen bench boss Mike Evans.

Halifax was always in the lead other than for one minute in the first quarter, but needed a late-game run to blow the game open.

Lawrence Wright had a game-high 26 points to lead the way offensively for Halifax, which had dropped two-straight, including a 97-92 decision to the Saint John Mill Rats on Friday night.

Former Saint Mary's



▶ Halifax Rainmen centre Abdullahi Kuso fights a trio of Moncton Miracles players for a rebound during yesterday's game at the Metro Centre.

Huskies guard Joey Haywood added 15 points and eight assists, while Eric Crookshank netted 10 points and nine rebounds.

"This stopped the bleed-

ing a little bit and now we'll try to get back on a winning streak," said Crookshank.

"You know, it's good to get the kinks out at the be-

ginning of the season. Of course we want to win every game, but it's a long season, and as long as we get the kinks out and play hard, we're going to win."

Marlins sign Reyes: Source

The suddenly splurging Miami Marlins landed their second big free agent in a matter of days, agreeing last night to a \$106-million US, six-year contract with all-star shortstop Jose Reyes, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press.

After adding all-star closer Heath Bell for \$27 million over three years, the Marlins gave the NL batting champion a deal that includes a club option for 2018 that would make the contract worth \$120 million, the person said, speaking last night on condition of anonymity because the agreement had not yet been announced.

Preparing to move into a \$515 million retractable-roof ballpark, the Marlins have become a driving force in the free-agent market ahead of the winter meetings, which start today. They've also shown interest in acquiring one of the high-profile free-agent first basemen: Prince Fielder or Albert Pujols.

Reyes is following Francisco Rodriguez and Carlos Beltran out of New York, leaving David Wright and Johan Santana as the Mets' last remaining stars. Mets general manager Sandy Alderson began hearing rumours of the deal yesterday afternoon.

"If they are true, I think that Jose at this point is beyond where we would have been," said Alderson, who spoke with Reyes' agents earlier in the day. "There was an indication to me that things were moving. Exactly how far, I didn't ask. I didn't need to."

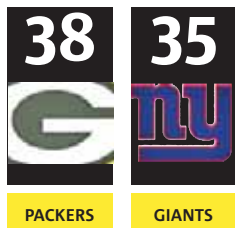
The 28-year-old Reyes won the NL batting crown last season, becoming the first player in Mets history to do it. He hit .337 and also topped the league with 16 triples, while also stealing 39 bases.

Reyes is a four-time all-star and three-time stolen base champion. But he has been prone to injuries in recent seasons, particularly to his hamstrings.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Green Bay stays perfect

► Packers beat Giants on final play, clinch playoff berth ► Fourth loss in a row for New York



The Green Bay Packers are still perfect and heading to the playoffs.

Aaron Rodgers engineered a last minute drive to set up a 30-yard field goal by Mason Crosby on the final play and the Green Bay Packers remained undefeated and clinched a playoff berth with a 38-35 victory over the New York Giants yesterday.

Rodgers hit three passes of more than 18 yards on the drive in the final 58 seconds as the Super Bowl champion Packers (12-0) won their 18th straight game and handed the Giants (6-6) their fourth straight loss.

New York, which was blown out by New Orleans Monday night, tied the game on a two-yard Eli Manning touchdown pass and a two-point conversion run by D.J. Ware with just under a minute to play.

However, Rodgers, who



► Jordy Nelson of the Green Bay Packers makes a reception in the final minute of the fourth quarter against Will Blackmon of the New York Giants yesterday.

threw four touchdown passes, wasn't going to settle for overtime after a touchback on the ensuing kickoff.

On first down, he completed a pass to Jermichael Finley just over the outstretched hands of rookie linebacker Jacquan

Williams and the tight end rumbled 24 yards up the right sideline to the 44.

A 24-yard pass to Jordy Nelson down the left sideline moved the ball to the New York 29 and an 18-yard pass to Greg Jennings two plays later moved the ball to the 12.

Green Bay called time out with three seconds to go, and then Crosby delivered his winning kick.

The Packers would clinch the NFC North if Detroit lost to New Orleans on Sunday night.

For the Giants, everything wasn't terrible. Dallas

also lost, leaving New York a game behind the Cowboys with four games to go. The two teams will play twice over that span.

Rodgers, who was harassed by Giants front and sacked three times, finished 28 of 46 for 369 yards.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Woods ends two years of futility

After going more than two years and 26 tournaments without a win, and after so much turmoil in his personal life and with his golf game, Tiger Woods stood over a six-foot birdie putt yesterday to win the Chevron World Challenge and felt as though nothing had changed.

Finally, the outcome was familiar, too.

Woods poured in the putt to cap off a birdie-birdie finish at Sherwood, close with a 3-under 69 and beat former Masters champion Zach Johnson by one shot. The win ended a drought that lasted 749 days, and might have signalled a change that Woods is on his way back.



"People don't realize how hard it is to win golf tournaments. I've gone on streaks where I've won golf tournaments in a row, but still ... I don't think I've taken it for granted."

TIGER WOODS

He swept his arm across the air, yelled through the din of the gallery and slammed his fist in a celebration that was a long time coming.

Relief? Satisfaction? Vindication?

Woods wasn't sure, and he didn't much care.

"It just feels awesome whatever it is," he said.

Trailing by one shot with two holes to play, Woods came up with two clutch putts. He holed a 15-footer for birdie on the

par-3 17th to pull into a tie with Johnson, then hit a 9-iron from 158 yards that landed on the ridge behind the hole and rolled down to six feet.

"I've been in contention twice this year, which is not very often," Woods said. "So that's my third time with a chance to win it. I pulled it off this time."

It was his 83rd win worldwide in tournaments that award ranking points, but his first since he won the Australian Masters on

Nov. 15, 2009, back when he looked as though he would rule golf for as long as he played.

But he crashed his car into a fire hydrant outside his Florida home on Thanksgiving night, and shocking revelations of extramarital affairs began to emerge, which shattered his image, led to a divorce and cost him four major sponsors. Since then, he has changed swing coaches, caddies and endured more injuries, causing him

to miss two majors and fail to make the cut in another.

Now, however, it looks clear that Woods is on an upward path.

"If the man is healthy, that's paramount," Johnson said. "I mean, he's the most experienced and the best player I've ever played with. In every situation, he knows how to execute and win."

Even though those situations have been rare, Woods looked as though he had not forgotten how to win. The only other times he has been in contention this year were the Masters and the Australian Open.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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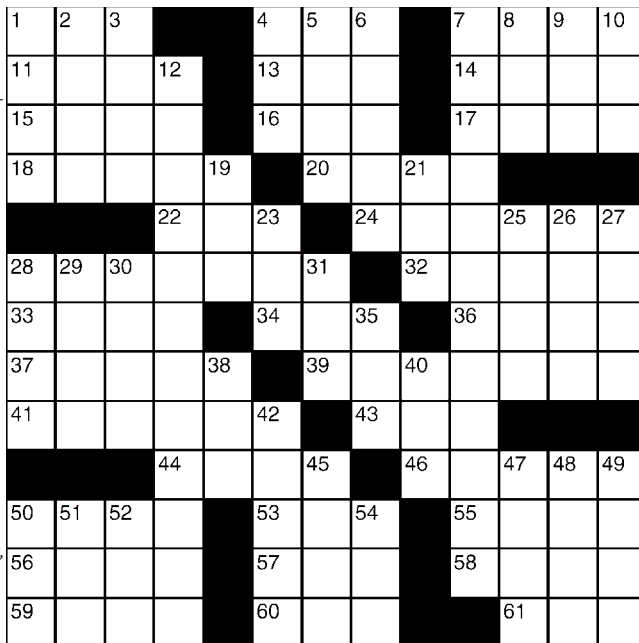
Crossword

Across

- 1 Two-timer
4 Arrow launcher
7 Goya's "Naked" subject
11 Scads
13 Atmosphere
14 PC picture
15 Panorama
16 Beer cousin
17 Fender bender
18 Artist's support
20 Knitting need
22 Lower limb
24 Used a switch-blade on
28 Unimportant
32 Spry
33 Relaxation
34 — de deux
36 Lug
37 Bother
39 Washington city
41 Half-hour TV show, often
43 Blond shade
44 Hawaiian feast
46 Eccentric
50 Note from the boss
53 54-Down stat
55 Eye layer
56 United nations
57 Slithery squeezer
58 Skaters' venue
59 Out of control
60 Switch positions
61 Two, in Tijuana

Down

- 1 Bear lair, often
2 Others (Lat.)
3 Accomplishes
4 Sheep's cry



- 5 Unctuous
6 Cause, as havoc
7 Dark time
8 Expert
9 "The Daily Show With — Stewart"
10 Pismire
12 Another way to say 7-Down
19 Floral neckwear
21 Genetic letters
23 Space
25 Authoritative command
26 Hebrew month
27 Take out of con-

- text?
28 Earl Grey's kin
29 Hindu princess
30 "Say It — So"
31 — Vegas
35 The Red or the Black
38 Thee
40 Request
42 Ballroom dance
45 "Once — a time ..."
47 "Amores" poet
48 Gambling game
49 Tibetan herd
50 Biz deg.
51 Shade tree

► Thursday's answer



For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

can't help themselves and the best way to do that is to join forces with those who share your concerns.

♊ **Capricorn** Dec. 22-Jan. 20

You have always been ambitious but are your ambitions inspired by your ideals or are you interested in nothing more than profit and position?

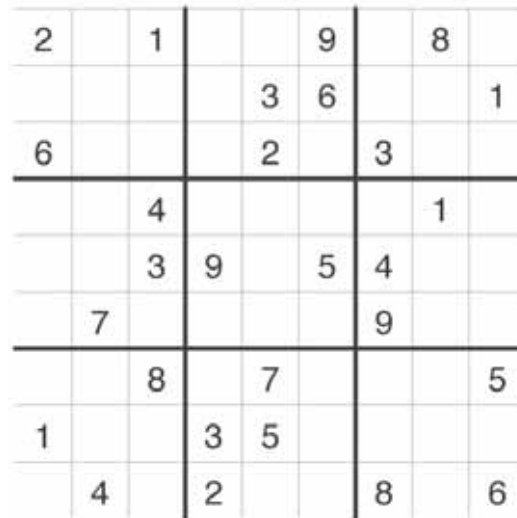
♒ **Aquarius** Jan. 21-Feb. 18

All things change with time and it's time you moved on — to better things, of course.

♓ **Pisces** Feb. 19-March 20.

What you believe is likely to change profoundly over the next few days. ● SALLY BROMPTON

Sudoku



How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Thursday's answer ►

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 4 |
| 6 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 7 | 3 |
| 9 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 8 |
| 1 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 7 |
| 2 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 9 |
| 4 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 8 | 6 |
| 7 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 1 |
| 3 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 |
| 5 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 2 |

Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, at metronews.ca/kiss.

Everyone on Earth, This is sort of a global prayer, and as it is, a very personal one as well. I want to wish everyone so much love to cradle their days and nights. I wish everyone could find it in their hearts to cast away fear in their lives... or at least use it to find what is true and beautiful. I wish for clarity in love, peace for those in need, and for some to shed their egos and stop it with excessive consumerism. As always, I would want everyone to find their soul/mate love of their dreams. I wish these things. To dreams coming true!

Reeda Durrani,
i love you and will always love you

BILAL AMER

Today's horoscope

♈ **Aries** March 21-April 20 What happens over the next seven days will make life fun again.

♉ **Taurus** April 21-May 21 Today could turn out to be rather challenging, but in a pleasant way.

♊ **Gemini** May 22-June 21 Action speaks louder than words, so act fast, be first and get the job done.

♋ **Cancer** June 22-July 22 Get that glum look off your face and believe that good things (and good people) are coming your way.

♌ **Leo** July 23-Aug. 23 Don't allow

yourself to get worked up about some of the things that go on in the world.

♍ **Virgo** Aug. 24-Sept. 22 Fate is about to introduce you to someone who can transform your existence.

♎ **Libra** Sept. 23-Oct. 23 Let the world know who you are and what you can do — and make sure you do it.

♏ **Scorpio** Oct. 24-Nov. 22 Go places, do things and make new friends. Life has rarely looked better.

♐ **Sagittarius** Nov. 23-Dec. 21

You want to help those who



PETER DEJONG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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